



Devon and Cornwall OPCC - Record of Decision

Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
2023/24 – 2026/27

Decision Record prepared by:

Nicola Allen

Date of Decision:

6th February 2023

1. Background

This decision record confirms the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to set the future four-year financial position for the financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27 and the proposals that were presented to the 27th January 2023 Police and Crime Panel as follows:

- 1) The Police and Crime Commissioner proposed a £15.00 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2023/24 financial year following consultation with the Chief Constable.
- 2) Further items that were presented for the Police and Crime Panel to note:
 - The Commissioning Intentions Plan attached to the report.
 - The Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy published online to enhance transparency.
 - The Chief Constable's resources summary letter detailing his operational policing requirements for the coming year attached to the report.

2. Decision Record

The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their power of veto to the Commissioners proposals for a £15.00 proposed increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2023/24 financial year. It is therefore the Commissioner's decision to confirm the proposed £15.00 (6.08%) increase to the Band D equivalent in the police precept proportion of council tax. This will take the Band D equivalent from £246.56 for 2022/23 to £261.56 for 2023/24. The bands are shown in the table below:

Valuation Band	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase £	Increase %	Increase per day £	Increase per week £	Increase per month £	Increase per month (10 months) £
A	164.37	174.37	10.00	6.08%	0.03	0.19	0.83	1.00
B	191.77	203.44	11.67	6.08%	0.03	0.22	0.97	1.17
C	219.16	232.50	13.33	6.08%	0.04	0.26	1.11	1.33
D	246.56	261.56	15.00	6.08%	0.04	0.29	1.25	1.50
E	301.35	319.68	18.33	6.08%	0.05	0.35	1.53	1.83
F	356.14	377.81	21.67	6.08%	0.06	0.42	1.81	2.17
G	410.93	435.93	25.00	6.08%	0.07	0.48	2.08	2.50
H	493.12	523.12	30.00	6.08%	0.08	0.58	2.50	3.00

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

Publication of the provisional Police Finance Settlement was made on 14th December 2022. Following consultation, the final settlement was confirmed on 31st January 2023.

As part of the commitment to actively engage with the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the totality of the budget a public survey was run from 7th December 2022 to 9th January 2023. Two focus groups were also held.

The quantitative survey was designed to seek significant levels of engagement on questions around policing and investment priorities before the 2023/24 budget proposals were finalised. It was supplemented with two qualitative focus groups, one representing urban communities and one rural. The groups were made up of community-minded volunteers across Devon and Cornwall.

The Commissioner submitted her proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 19th January 2023. These were scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel on 27th January 2023. The Police and Crime Panel supported the proposals and made no recommendations.



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Chair has written to the Commissioner to formalise the agreement of the Police and Crime Panel at the meeting on 27th January 2023. A copy of the letter has been provided in the supporting documents with this decision and will be published.

4. OPCC Officer Advice

4.1 Legal, Management and Equality Implications – Current and Future

In considering the increase of £15.00 (per Band D equivalent) in council tax funding, the Commissioner has considered this year's funding settlement and seeks to ensure that funding for the Force keeps pace with inflation. The budget is looking to strengthen, stabilise and sustain the investment made in previous years to ensure a robust and sustainable MTFs.

There are always new and different demands being placed upon policing and resources need to reflect this. Many of the new areas of policing require investment in new technology before any operational savings can be generated. There will be additional resources in the reopening of front desk, firearms licensing, resource management and digital forensics.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

The overall increase in grant funding was 1.8%. This included an allocation to partially support the increased level of pay award for 2022/23. The pay award has not yet been agreed for 2023/24 and therefore has been included as a risk. The current economic climate has seen inflation reach 11.1% before falling slightly to the current level of 10.5% and a bank base rate of 3.5%. A risk register is attached to the Police and Crime Panel Report.

Work on the amended funding formula has progressed during 2022/23. It is anticipated that all Police and Crime Commissioners will be formally consulted on the intended formula early in this year.

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This remains a significant future risk. The new funding formula allocation could remove annual funding. If this happens it is planned to use a significant proportion of the current reserves to support a smooth transition to new base levels of expenditure. This will restrict the use of these reserves to support other projects and initiatives.

5. Supporting documents:

- Letter dated 27th January 2023 from the Police and Crime Panel Chair to the Police and Crime Commissioner agreeing with the proposed council tax increase and making no recommendations:
[Click here](#)
- Letter dated 6th February 2023 from the Police and Crime Commissioner replying to the Police and Crime Panel Chair's letter:
[Click here](#)
- The Police and Crime Commissioners precept, budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2026/27 as presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 27th January 2023, which comprises the following documents:
 - [Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy \(MTFS\) 2023/24 – 2026/27 – Main Report](#)
 - [Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27](#)
 - [Appendix 2 – Letter from the Chief Constable](#)
 - [Appendix 3 – Commissioning Intentions Plan 2023 to 2024](#)
 - [Appendix 4 – Risk Assessment](#)
 - [Appendix 5 – The budget engagement results summary](#)
 - [Appendix 6 - Glossary](#)

6. Official approval

Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication	N/A
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	no

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For OPCC office use:

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

Police and Crime Commissioner

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

Handwritten signature of Alison Hernandez in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Nicola Allen in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Frances Hughes in blue ink.

Signed
Print: Alison Hernandez
Date: 6th February 2023

Signed
Print: Nicola Allen
Date: 6th February 2023

Signed
Print: Frances Hughes
Date: 6th February 2023

Decision logged in register? *[Tick if completed]*

✓

Decision published on OPCC website? *[Tick if completed]*

✓